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SJC Offers Additional Courses in Wake of Closure

By Angelica Arizmendi
News Writer

Due to the devastating news that Saint Joe will be closing its doors after the Spring semester, faculty members have been doing everything they can to help students finish up their degree program. Even though most seniors are ready to graduate in May, there are some students who only need a few courses to complete their degree program. These students are being given the opportunity to take courses that can be completed by the end of the semester.

It has been overwhelming for faculty to not only set up these classes and take in the sudden news, but also to search for jobs and write recommendation letters for students as well. Professors have been working extremely hard for the past two weeks talking to students about the options they have and the courses they are able to substitute in or take to graduate in May.

The Education Division Chairperson, Professor Allison Segarra, says "it has been challenging setting up the courses and making the decisions because we want to ensure that we preserve the integrity of the program." The education division has been working with students to discuss senior level courses, along with field hours and co-teaching. The challenges arise when deciding if it is fair and if what they are doing is right. The best



Above: Student go to and from class in the Core Education Center
Image courtesy of Institutional Advancement

way to look at it is that all of the professors are trying to do their best given the circumstances we are in. Professor Segarra says, "I feel like I have a headache...but we are doing our very best."

Coordinator and Dean of the Core Curriculum, Dr. Michael Nichols, will be offering a combined Core 9 and 10 course. This course will be offered to a selective group of students who have already completed their major and minor and only need two Core classes to graduate. This course will not be easy, Dr. Nichols says, "this course will be rigorous enough to substitute in for both Cores. Students will have to put forth a lot of work." Aside from the Education Division and the Core Program, other

disciplines such as Biology and Business will also be offering courses to students.

The Business Administration Division Coordinator, Professor Teresa Massoels, mentions that there are professors in her division who will offer directed studies to help students complete their degrees. Professor Massoels says, "I am also offering a marketing topics course after spring break. It would be no different than if I were to offer it as a summer course." Students are going to be responsible for doing research and writing up their findings for this course. "It has been a busy few weeks since we all found out about the changes, but I think the faculty and staff are doing a great job helping the students move on"

says professor Massoels.

Junior Coley Clark is grateful for the work the professors have been putting in to help not only her but other students complete their degree program. "The professors have been so supportive throughout this whole process by opening up courses, waiving courses, and even just being a shoulder to cry on when you're feeling stressed about extra course work." She goes on to say, "I appreciate everything that they're doing because the extra courses that I'm taking will allow me to graduate a semester early." Students taking these courses will no doubt be extremely busy the rest of the semester but are up for the challenge and are hoping to finish up the semester strong.

Alumni Appeal to Indiana Attorney General

By Lauren Grasham
News Writer

"Never wake a sleeping Puma."

This has been the quote that's been surfacing all over social media from current and former Pumas alike. Everyone who has had a connection with Saint Joseph's College has definitely experienced their share of negative emotions regarding the college's closing that was announced on February 3. Some of these include anger and desperation, making them eager to fight back. No Puma is ready to see their home disappear within a matter of months.

These emotions, though, have caused the Puma family to unite to try to keep the school alive. Students on campus are doing all they can to help out, and alumni are jumping in as well. One thing

that has greatly caught on is an online petition that is asking for Curtis Hill, the attorney general, to look into the actions made by the Board of Trustees.

Many have lost their faith in the board after all that has happened in the past couple of weeks. They feel as if they are not getting their questions answered and that there is more than meets the eye. Elizabeth Hampton '99, the creator of the petition, summed up the thoughts of Pumas across the country with the description she wrote along with the plea:

"The alumni, students, faculty and staff of Saint Joseph's College have been harmed by the actions, or inaction of its Board of Directors. We, as a unified community of supporters of this valuable educational institution are requesting that the Office of the Attorney General perform

a thorough investigation of the members of the Board, and take any and all necessary actions to prevent further harm to those impacted. The Board of Directors has refused to take meetings with concerned Alumni, and have failed to maintain transparency throughout their decision making process to close the institution."

The petition was something that caught the attention of many. Thousands of people were electronically signing their name with the hopes that something would be done. Within a week of the petition being made, five thousand signatures were collected. By the time it closed on February 10, there were 11,183 signatures. Hampton provided everyone with an update not long after the petition gained major popularity:

"Thank you all for taking a moment to sign this petition. I

have received information that the Attorney General's Office is currently monitoring the situation. This does not mean they have decided to take action, but they have taken notice. Please only sign the petition once, but feel free to have friends, relatives, or anybody who cares about SJC to sign. The petition will close on Monday and then we will be arranging delivery to Mr. Hill's office. #itsagreatdaytobeapuma" There are currently no updates, but as Hampton said, people are definitely noticing. With more and more people talking about the issue, there is a chance that something will happen. Maybe with a lot of luck and persistence, the attorney general may just be able to help us out here at Saint Joseph's College.

Have a comment on one of our articles? Write a letter to the editor! Email responses, rebuttals, and commentaries to Co-Editors-in-Chief, Kylie Hill at khw10051@saintjoe.edu or Alyssa Cook at acw10024@saintjoe.edu to have them published in our next issue!

High Expectations for SJC’s 2017 Commencement

By Alyssa Cook
Co-Editor-in-Chief

As SJC students pursue transfer opportunities and look to the future to escape the issues at present, they may find that the future itself, at least that of the next three months, is equally controversial, if not more so. A major point of tension, particularly among those who are interested in walking during the 2017 Commencement ceremony, is how this year’s festivities will be conducted. In the face of current turmoil, some are calling for change, based specifically on student input, while others hold that Commencement should be held as usual.

With less than three months until graduation, the multitude of questions -- “Who will award diplomas,” “Who is invited,” “Who gets to speak,” “How will seniors and juniors be recognized” -- may, and in a sense must, be answered in the weeks ahead.

Following the February 3rd announcement to close the College in the fall of 2017, many seniors turned their attention to commencement, recognizing the significance that their graduation will have as the last ceremony, at least in the foreseeable future of SJC.

In response to this realization and other factors, proposed changes to the regular

commencement ceremony include “banning” President Pastoor from the ceremony, receiving diplomas from someone more closely connected to the student body such as Dr. Pulver, “banning” the Board of Trustees, somehow involving alumni in the ceremony, and granting graduating juniors their own speakers, among other things.

“In a few weeks I will be graduating and I do not want the president to hand me my diploma,” says senior and former SA president Jose Arteaga. “I share the same thoughts as our student senate who gave him and vote of no confidence. I do not have confidence in him and I do not want him to hand me my diploma. This is an unprecedented situation if the President does not hand out diplomas. If the students don’t want Pastoor to hand us our diplomas I’m fine with Pulver giving them out or even faculty members.”

What’s more, the proposed changes affect not just the seniors, but also a growing number of juniors who are looking to graduate early. And some who have taken on greater course loads in order to walk in May feel that they deserve their own recognition as members of the class of 2018, though they may not be able to celebrate with the



Above: The President and Board of Trustees listen to the 2015 Commencement Speaker
Image courtesy of Institutional Advancement

other members of their class.

“We as the Junior Class are trying our best to stay positive. We love updates; however, we are clearly being overlooked,” says junior class president, Rolanda Curington. “With all that is going on, we can see staff really showing their love for their students which is why I think we all feel we will always be involved for life. And we are coming together more than ever which is what Saint Joe is about: community and making long lasting friends.”

However, how feasible these changes may be is still up for debate. At the moment, nothing has been confirmed or ultimately rejected, but as traditions are often difficult to break, the outcome of these propositions is very uncertain.

One of the primary organizers of Commencement, Fr. Tim McFarland C.P.P.S. notes that much is still undecided. “We are still in early stages of planning for commencement,” McFarland notes. “I’ve heard some of these things, but nothing officially

has been decided yet. In terms of juniors walking - only those who would finish their degree requirements by December 2017 would be eligible to walk in this year’s commencement ceremonies. Those who have not completed degree requirements will not receive diplomas as we have always done. They receive an empty folder and when degree requirement are completed, will be issued their diploma.”

Pumas Determine their Next Steps

By Steven Sewell
Co-Editor

As SJC gets closer to closing its doors, more opportunities are offered to students in their search to complete their degrees. SJC has provided Pumas with many different schools with college fairs and the Teach-Out program to begin at a new campus for the fall 2017 semester.

One student, Christine Manika, remains optimistic about the situation. In her search, Christine stated, “It’s honestly been good. So far the colleges I’ve talked to have been understanding and very helpful. I have talked to Carthage College a lot and I actually went there for a visit Friday. The campus is just beautiful. It’s on the water and it’s just so peaceful.” She also had advice for other students. “It will get better. This isn’t the first time I’ve been through a school closing and it is hard. You are only thinking about how much time left you have with your friends and you

can’t think about that. Make as many memories that you can. The friends you make here are forever.”

Bronte Eather, a junior, is in a unique position. She’s from Australia and has two years of eligibility to play soccer. “It has been a strange process, as I am not from this country. I didn’t know where to start. My soccer coach is making sure that we all have a place to go. He has sent the word out and coaches have been contacting me and my teammates, providing us with more options in our college search. I have looked at some schools in California because it’s warmer and closer to home, but for now I am keeping all of my options open until I know what I want to do.” Eather transferred to SJC in the 2016-17 school year from Calumet College of St. Joseph.

Ben Spannan, a sophomore is sticking close to Pumas during this tough time. “I’ve currently met with Saint Francis, Marian, Wabash, Anderson, and Ball

State. I’m just looking all around. My close friends and I are looking at trying to keep our core group together, so that will help out in the transition.”

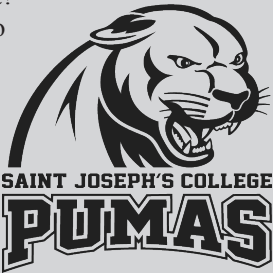
Lareland Cooper has plenty of options as a junior, but he’s still looking. “I’m considering IU East because it’s in my hometown, Ball State., and IUPUI. Some football guys are going to Ohio Dominican so I would consider that. I can’t play football anymore, so I can’t get an athletic scholarship. I might be able to get a coach to let me on equipment staff, but the possible scholarship I get wouldn’t be what I get here, most likely. Some players have tons of offers and some are committing already. But there’s a big group of them that are nervous about getting the opportunities they relied on here, and some of them are pretty unsure of what their future holds.”

As Pumas prepare to make the transition to a new school, it is difficult to commit to somewhere new.

Upcoming Puma Events!

- February 23:** Collegiate Career Expo
- Colleges on campus:**
 - Excelsior College:
 - University of Indy
 - Silver Lake College
 - Maryville University
- February 25:** Science Olympiad
- February 27:** Bingo
- Colleges on campus:**
 - Augustana College
 - Huntington University
- February 28:** Colleges on campus:
 - Saint Mary’s College
 - Belmont Abbey College
 - Mount of St. Joseph’s College
- March 1:** College Fair
- March 3-12:** Spring Break
- March 10:** FAFSA deadline
- March 19:** Feast of Saint Joseph

Want to get the word out about your event?
Email the date and name of your event to
Casey Snow at
csnow@saintjoe.edu or
Alyssa Cook at
acw10024@saintjoe.edu!



Accelerated
Core

by Cameron Adams
Opinions Writer

With the impending closure of Saint Joseph’s College, one of the options that has been presented to the juniors is that they could take an accelerated version of Cores Nine and Ten. This is done as a way for juniors to earn all of their Core credits. This program would allow them to avoid having to transfer, and they can leave with an SJC degree. Some seniors are upset about it being offered. The reason being that some juniors will have to do seemingly less work for the same result as they did, who had a full list of requirements to meet. I don’t fully think that this attitude is right. I understand being irritated that some juniors could be “cheating” the system and getting to graduate without doing the load of work. However, I also understand why the program was made in the first place. Why would the teachers allow students who only need the two Core credits to graduate go to another school? It doesn’t make sense to me. If you have students who are willing to do the extra work to get a degree now, why would you keep them from it? It’s like if you have a carpenter working on some furniture for you and he gets it done a couple

days early, would you get upset because that wasn’t the exact day that you were told? Besides, I highly doubt that the Accelerated Core Program will be a cake walk. It is a program that combines a whole school year’s worth of Core into a eight week program. They probably won’t have to do the infamous 10-20 page papers that are involved with it, but they will have their own problems. Those juniors are not only taking on a whole extra host of credits, but they are taking them on top of the credits they may already have. If they have the option of taking Accelerated Core, they would have the option of taking a couple of extra classes in order to help the situation. That means there would be an average of 30 credit hours. Even for the most intelligent and organized person, that is a huge mountain to climb. So in my opinion, I think that we should not get upset at the juniors who are doing what it takes to get the SJC degree. On the contrary, we should give them all of our support, love, and prayers, because they will more than likely need it.

by Karen Gramajo
Opinions Writer

There are a lot of things in this world I absolutely detest. I loathe tan, yellow, and pastel colors. I also loathe elephants and farm animals. They send shivers up my spine. However, the thing that I detest the most in the world, and one creature that makes my skin crawl above all others, the one animal that I would rather sit in a room full of cockroaches and spiders than to be with is... the pig. *Shivers.* I hate pigs. I hate pigs with a burning passion because one, they are my least favorite color of all of the pastels: pink. I do not like pastel pink. This is why Easter is one of my least favorite holidays because there are pastel colors everywhere. It makes me want to vomit because it’s surreal and bright. I love bright colors like neon and metallic, but pastels make me want to scream, especially pink. I hate pastel pink. I hate it even on an ugly creature... I hate pigs. They smell and they give me creepy vibes. I cannot remember why I don’t like pigs, it’s just they are eerie with their small eyes. You can’t tell if they are exceedingly stupid or intelligent enough to plot a massacre on the humans race. I hate pigs. I do not want to be near one or learn of them. I am really mad that people are using pigs for human cell

research. We are going to have combinations of pig and human... why... WHY THE FREAKING PIG! Why can’t you use rats or some other animal, but no? They make me sick to look at them. What’s worse is that my friends tease me about them. On our gift exchange, I got a pig keychain... why Samantha? Why? His name is Silverstein and he’s a ham. I have him as a keychain and he always goes around with me.



Above: Pigs!
Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Plight of the Non-Athlete

by Stephen Nickel
Opinions Writer

One of the problems that Saint Joseph’s College has had over the year is that they have not been very successful in recruiting non-athlete students. If you ask anyone they will tell you that non-athletes are the life blood of any successful college. The simple fact of the matter is, non-athletes contribute more to a campus. They do this in a number of different ways. First and foremost, non-athletes usually pay far more to attend school than athletes. On top of that they have far more time to dedicate to extracurricular activities at school. This means that they are far more likely to take leadership roles in clubs and promote activities that benefit the entire student body. I know from personal experience here that the majority of club presidents and active club members are not involved in sports. However, despite the contributions that non-athletes make to campus, they are often treated worse than student athletes. For example, at our school non-athletes are limited in when they can use the athletic

facilities. I have personally been kicked out of the gym because an athletic team wanted to work out. This type of an environment is hostile to non-athletes and makes them feel like second class students. The problem with this is that while they are paying a higher amount and keeping the college financially feasible, they are also receiving less for their money than athletes receive.

In fact, studies have shown that colleges and universities typically spend more on each athlete than they do on each academic student. Don’t get me wrong, I believe that athletics are an important part of a school but they can also be its downfall. Athletes can bring geographical diversity to a small campus such as ours because of coaches

recruiting in other states. They also can be very dedicated to school activities when they become involved in them. However, when the ratio of athletes to non-athletes becomes too dominant, it can have negative consequences such as what has happened here at Saint Joseph’s College. This should be a lesson to other small schools that if you neglect the students who really help “pay the bills”, you can ruin the financial stability of your school.



Left: SJC’s football athletes.
Photo courtesy of Father Tim McFarland.

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We, the newspaper staff of *The Observer*, while exercising our First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, promise to adhere to the highest journalistic standards. *The Observer* will not print articles, editorials, or other material that misquote or misrepresent members or organizations within the Saint Joseph’s College community. While constantly striving to meet these goals, we can and will print retractions amending or remedying any problems brought to our attention.

SJC: A History of Subsidies

By John D. Groppe
Guest Writer

Throughout our history, St. Joe’s finances have always been precarious, and the college has always been dependent on subsidies. They help to keep the college functioning and stave off financial failure, but could only maintain the college in its position of teetering on the edge. Those subsidies have taken a variety of forms and have been called by other names--monetary gifts, grants from foundations or the government, contributed services, trade offs, discounting, even sacrifice.

St. Joe was subsidized through its first sixty years by the donated labor of CPPS priests, brothers, and sisters that made the college largely self-sufficient. We might call this a subsidy of sacrifice. A 1917 college publication presented this picture of the operations in answer to the question “How do you manage it?”

“The college not only possesses a living endowment in its professors, working Bothers and students (seminarians), who receive no salaries, but are a valuable asset in a highly productive farm and garden. . . . Fresh meat, milk, and butter from our own herds and dairy, fresh bread, pies, and cakes from our own bakery, and the thousands of gallons of preserves, jams, and fruits that are canned in season, and the thousands of bushels of vegetables that are stored away or hilled up in the garden. . . . are the means. The kitchens, dining room, and laundry are in the charge of the Sisters of the Precious Blood. The College also possesses its own power and light plant, repair shops, laundry, and water supply system.”

That living subsidy began to disappear after World War II. The sisters left in the 50s, and there were fewer brothers to work the farms but the college still produced some of its food. Phil Mueller, an alumnus who started in 1956, recalls being served some form of pork, presumably St. Joe pork, at nearly every meal. The subsidy has lived on with the contributed services of priests and brothers, but that also has diminished over time. Today we have 3 priests and 2 brothers on staff.

The college was established primarily as a seminary for young men preparing to become priests, although some lay students were admitted to help defray expenses. It began as a two year school, a sort of junior college, as seminaries at that time were organized into two year minor seminaries and four year major seminaries. The CPPS seminarians went to Ohio for their major seminary education. Through the 30s, more non-seminary students enrolled, and in 1936 the college became a four year college with its first graduating class in 1941. The absence of students as a result of World War II came close to ending the college, and the 1945 college enrollment, just a month

after the war ended, was 83. Enrollment expanded rapidly beginning in 1946 with WWII veterans. The veterans’ education was subsidized by federal government grants to individual student veterans under what was called the GI Bill.

With that growth came financial challenges. The college had difficulty finding room to house all the students. That alumnus who started in 1956 was housed on the third floor of the Science Hall, where the Columbian Players’ scene shop is now. He and about 20 others had barracks style accommodations in a room full of beds in one half of the third floor and there was another 20 in the other half. In his second year he and two other students lived in a small three man room in Drexel, one of many such rooms. To house the increasing enrollments, the college built four new residences (Bennett, Noll, Gallagher, and Halas) with the aid of government subsidies, that is low interest, 40 year mortgages. Later, other buildings were built with similar subsidies of low interest, long term loans: Halleck Center, Schwietermann, and Justin.

As the enrollment grew and in 1968 ultimately peaked at 1,454, St. Joe had to compete with other colleges for faculty as they too were facing burgeoning enrollments. There were still 37 CPPS priests on staff in 1965, continuing that subsidy by sacrifice, but the college had to hire more laymen and women, and there were 40 lay faculty that year.

One donation that has had a lasting benefit was the donation of two military surplus buildings in 1947, the Carpenter Shop and Raleigh Hall. Raleigh initially served as the student union until Halleck Center was built in 1962 and has been repurposed and remodeled a number of times since then, usually by our own work crews.

In the 1955-56 academic year, the college received one of its largest foundation gifts, an endowment of \$270,000. The interest on that endowment was to be used for the first 10 years to improve faculty salaries, after which the gift was unrestricted. Still the college had deficit budgets for the years 1966 to 1971, declared financial exigency in 1972, and struggled to find ways to manage. Maintenance was neglected and the number of athletic grants were reduced, that is traded away to support other parts of the operation. The number of faculty was reduced from 97 in 1969 to 83 in ’72, including the dismissal of 4 tenured faculty. 1973 and ’74 were also deficit years. Furthermore, the administration building that also provided classrooms and faculty offices burned down in this period. Father Charles Banet, the president, held a convocation to explain the seriousness of the college’s financial situation, but also to put

to rest widespread rumors that the college was about to close.

Even through this period of economic challenge, the college received a number of important grants. The Higher Education Act of 1965 provided financial assistance for college students through financial aid, scholarships, and work study funds. In 1981 the college received a \$195,000 Department of Energy grant to reduce energy consumption. The grant paid for the metal sash windows in Science Hall and other buildings that reduced our energy use and costs and also improved the appearance of the buildings. Also in 1981, campus renovation was aided by a \$295,000 grant from the Krannert Charity Trust. Such grants helped to pay the \$300,000 used for dormitory renovations and other campus improvements.

The Core program was the basis of a number of large grants: \$250,000 in 1974, \$300,000 in 1976. The faculty became a beneficiary of a good portion of these funds through stipends for participation in workshops related to Core.

Enrollment continued to be a problem. All colleges had built or renovated residence halls and expanded the number of classrooms and programs. Some states enacted grants to state residents attending private college in their states to offset the difference between tuition at public and private colleges. Such grants made it difficult for us to recruit students in Illinois and Ohio, our most important recruiting regions at the time. Our enrollment dropped immediately.

In order to compete more effectively for students, St. Joe’s began to offer more institutional scholarships, that is scholarships funded directly by the college and not from interest on endowments. This is also called discounting, a form of subsidy. In effect the college says to a student receiving a discounted scholarship, “We’re not going to charge you for all of your education.” Discounting is practiced by most colleges in order to recruit and retain students. A recent study shows that in 2014 the average discount rate for new freshmen at private colleges was 48% and that the discount rate had gone up from 37.9% in 2003. The authors of the study point out that such discounts are unsustainable. According to Mr. Sponseller, the chair of the college trustees, our discount rate is 65%.

We were able to resume functioning within a week after the fire that destroyed the administration building, but in a makeshift way. We lost faculty offices and classrooms. The faculty moved into Gasper Hall, an old building in poor shape, from which they had to be moved when the building was condemned and leveled in 1982. They next moved to Dwenger Hall, a building that was not much better and was ultimately abandoned.

Moreover, we lacked the kind of classrooms needed for discussion based Core classes as well as an appropriate lecture hall. We made a daring move in the 1990s and borrowed money to build our Core building with two state of the art lecture halls, many new classrooms, and especially the much needed faculty offices. The move was designed as much to retain students as to recruit them. By that time, the 40 year mortgages on the residence halls built in the 1950s had been paid, but the mortgages on Halleck, Schwietermann, and Justin were still being paid. Later we took out a mortgage for the apartments.

Student life style changes required that residence halls and facilities be continually updated in order for the college to remain minimally competitive. We could recruit no students today by offering them the barracks type arrangements Phil Mueller was offered. Students of that era came from large families and were not used to having much room or much to put in what space they had. Norbert Krapf, a 1965 graduate and former Indiana poet laureate, has written a poem in which he recalls arriving on campus via the Monon Railroad with just one suitcase and some books. Students wanted more space, and we remodeled rooms into suites, designated many rooms as singles, and built the apartments in the ’90s. Still we have trouble matching the room sizes of colleges that I have visited in the last few years.

Enrollment continues to be a challenge. It declined continually from 1968’s maximum of 1,454 and reached a low of 850 in 1986. It rose to 1,000 when we began to teach St. Elizabeth School of Nursing students in 1988. However, raw numbers can disguise certain facts. By comparing the 1986 enrollment of 850 with our current enrollment of 900, we can get a clearer picture of one aspect of our situation. Our 900 students break down into 600 resident students and 298 commuting students, 164 of whom are nursing students. However beneficial the 164 nursing students are to the college and its budget, they do not live on campus, do not participate in extra curricular programs, and do make make much use of the facilities. I suspect that few of the 134 other commuting students make much use of our facilities and extra curricular programs. The portion of our present enrollment that is comparable to the 1986 student body is only 600 students. The campus, facilities, and programs we had throughout the ’80s were designed for a residential student body of 1,000 and more. Today it serves only 600 residential students, but it costs almost as much as if we had a 1,000.

The problems I point out and the continuing needs for various kinds of subsidies are a distinguishing characteristic of St. Joe’s and many small private

colleges. If we are going to rethink and rebuild the college, we must consider these issues first.

There is one other subsidy to consider, another subsidy of sacrifice: faculty salaries and benefits. Except for the period of the late ’50s through the ’60s when the college had the Ford endowment for faculty salaries and when there was a nationwide faculty shortage, St. Joe salaries have always been lower than salaries at comparable institutions. In recent years the faculty has received no increases or only token increases. More significantly, in the past few years, the college has had to reduce its contributions to the retirement accounts, a reduction that has long term consequences.

In pointing out these issues, I do not want to ignore the strengths of the college. The strength that seems to be singled out more frequently than others is the closeness of the students, faculty, and staff, often referred to as a sense of family. This characteristic is evident on many occasions. My favorite is seeing the dining room staff and house keeping staff line the walk from Halleck on graduation day to greet the graduates for the last time. They are almost as proud of and as happy for the graduates as the students’ parents. Still, we must bear in mind that this closeness to faculty and staff and the personal attention it bears witness to, including small classes, is in part, a factor of our enrollment problems.



Above: John D. Groppe is a Professor Emeritus of English at Saint Joseph’s College. Groppe retired in 2003 but has remained an active member of the SJC community. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Information for this article came from Saint Joseph’s College, A Chronology From the Beginning to 1990 by Charles J. Robbins, C.P.P.S.

“Brainy’s the New Sexy”

By Danata Paulino
Features Writer

This is coming from one of the many clever characters that Sherlock and Watson come across, Irene Adler. This contemporary mystery series will make you think twice about any preconceived notions made about Sherlock Holmes. For many movie and TV goers, Rotten Tomatoes is the go-to website for finding out the brilliance or lack there of in the film and television industry. Sherlock Holmes of 221B Baker Street is known to many of the mystery enthusiasts as the no fail detective of London. The BBC TV show, *Sherlock*, was given an astounding 100% rating by Rotten Tomatoes on its first season. After watching for myself, I heartily agree with this critique. *Sherlock* follows the adventures of private investigator Sherlock Holmes and Doctor John Watson in current day London. Based off of the stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the odd couple played by Benedict Cumberbatch (Holmes) and Martin Freeman (Watson) give a hilarious and inspiring performance as they solve the city’s mysteries that the police can’t touch. Benedict plays Holmes perfectly as a know-it-all and somewhat psychotic genius who doesn’t miss a single detail, but makes no friends in the

process. You dislike him because of his arrogance, yet laugh at how oblivious he can be. Watson starts out being a mentally and somewhat physically crippled man. When Watson was injured in battle, he was honorably discharged from Afghanistan. Meeting Sherlock gave Watson something to live for again, making his recovery a smoother process. Watson is the better half to the duo, acting as a moral compass because Sherlock seemingly doesn’t have one. The first episode, “A Study In Pink,” follows the two on their first case together as they try to solve the mystery surrounding a series of suicides. The police chief, knowing full well that Sherlock’s intelligence surpasses them all, asks him for help. At the same time, someone claiming to be Sherlock’s “Arch-Enemy” contacts Watson and tries to convince him to spy on him. I won’t go into any further detail of the mystery as to not ruin what was an enticing end. The mysteries are enthralling and leave you at the edge of your seat. Although longer than a regular TV episode, you don’t even notice how much time has passed as you are thrown into the chases of murder and deceit. This is a show for mystery and adventure lovers alike.

The Athletes

By Justin Hays
Features Writer

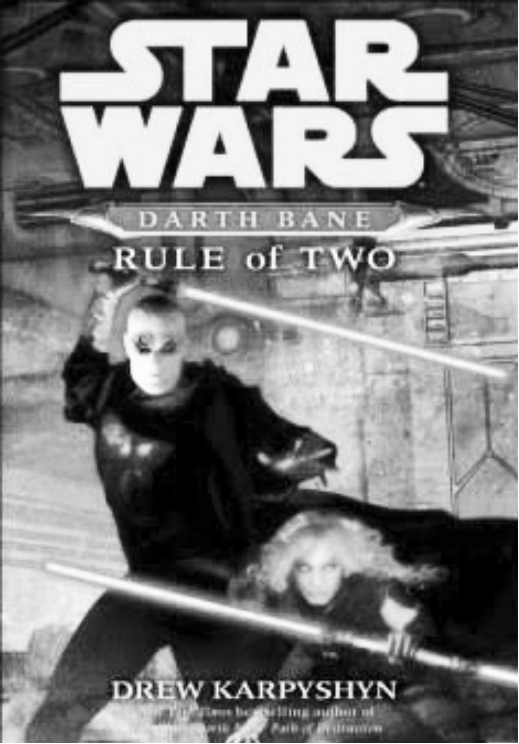
The announcement of the “temporary suspension” has thrown many lives into disarray. Faculty, staff, and students have all had their lives changed in irreparable ways by being told that they are no longer welcome at their home which is SJC. Faculty and staff have to look for new jobs, while students have to look for new schools. The stress of this process is tremendous for all involved. While every particular group of SJC stakeholders are facing uniquely troublesome situations, one devastated group in particular is athletes. For athletes, the February 3rd announcement sent their lives into chaos in a uniquely burdensome way. Not only would these athletes have to look for new schools and financial aid packages, they would have to look for new athletic scholarships. This is particularly concerning considering February 1st was the National Signing Day for athletic scholarships. While this date does not mean scholarships are now unavailable, most coaches expect to have their teams filled out by this day. For most athletes then, they will be feverishly searching for a scholarship in an ever-shrinking pool of availability.

Many athletes depended on the financial security of having both an academic and athletic scholarship to be able to attend college, and now they are threatened with the possibility of not being able to stay in school. Others worry if they will even continue to play their sport at all. Athletes were accustomed to their coaches, their teammates, and their training styles, and now they have the risk of entering a completely alien training environment. While some athletes will find a comfortable new fit, the transition to a new school and team can be rocky. Freshman softball player Taylor Mendenhall (Brownsburg, IN) now has to re-enter the recruiting process just one year removed from her high school recruiting process. Mendenhall, when asked what burden the renewed recruiting process has placed on her life, replied, “It’s very difficult being in season and having to deal with this. It’s hard to miss not only classes, but practices to go talk to coaches or visit campuses when you have games coming up.” With regards to availability of scholarship, Mendenhall had to say, “It’s really hard to find a school that wants to, one, recruit, and two is able to recruit you.”

By Wesley Hutson
Features Writer

“There shall only be two, one to embody the Power and the other to crave It.” The story of Darth Bane continues in Drew Karpysyn’s *Rule of Two*. While the first novel dealt with the demise of the old Order, this is the beginning of the underground nature of the Sith, hiding from the Jedi and secretly accumulating the power to one day rule the galaxy. The story begins where Path of Destruction left off, with the Sith Order destroyed and Darth Bane the last remaining Dark Lord. He finds a child called Rain and feels her inner anger, claiming her as his apprentice, Zannah. Bane tells her that the Rule of Two is the new way of the Sith, and that in order for the Apprentice to surpass the Master, she must take the mantle, so that the Order will gradually become stronger as the generations pass, allowing the Sith to one day take revenge on their Jedi enemies. Ten years pass, and the young girl has become a powerful Sith apprentice, and she knows that the time will one day come for her to challenge her Master and carry on the legacy of the Sith. Bane himself knows this as he attempts to record his teachings in a holocron to pass on to future generations, but his attempts to create such challenge her Master and carry on the legacy of the Sith. Bane himself knows this as he attempts to record his teachings in a holocron to pass on to future

Rule of Two



Left: Rule of Two book cover. Image courtesy of Google Images.

generations, but his attempts to create such an object of power at this point have failed. Zannah hints that it may be because of his connection to his parasitic armor of orbalisks, but Bane suspects that she simply wants him weakened for their final confrontation. When his desire for greater power and preservation of knowledge lead Bane and Zannah back into the suspicion of the Jedi, everything they have built is put in jeopardy, and Zannah must make the choice between perceived power and knowledge. While the previous novel was the rise of a Dark Lord of the Sith, this novel is about the relationship between Master and Apprentice. This is the thing always hinted

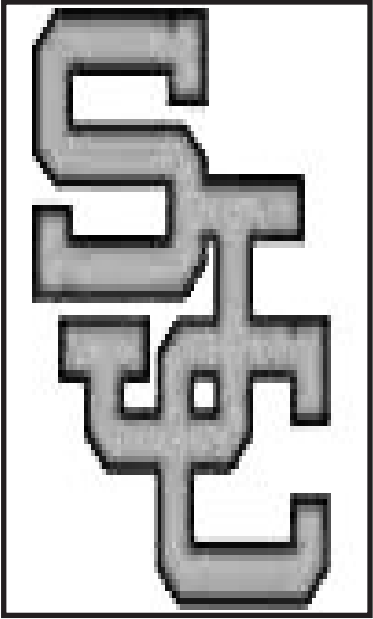
at in places throughout the *Star Wars* movies, but never truly explored: how the Sith interact with each other. This novel explores how, like the Jedi, this relationship is symbiotic, and the need to work together is evident. But unlike their Light counterparts, there is an ever present tension among the Sith, as the Apprentice is not only expected to, it is their duty to usurp their Master for the line to continue. The Sith advance through conflict with each other, which is why the previous Order of many equals failed. Under the Rule of Two, the Sith will only grow stronger, and will eventually see their revenge over the Jedi under Darth Sidious and Darth Vader, always two.

25 by Adele

By Bronte Eather
Features Writer

The British singer Adele released her third album, *25* in late 2015. Since then, Adele’s already high status-fame continued to rise with hits such as “Hello” and “All I ask.” Not only has her music provided her with numerous Grammys, but this month saw Adele win the 2017 Grammy for Album of the Year, which cemented her life’s work in history. The album *25*, titled so because of her age when she produced it, holds eleven songs portraying differing moments throughout her life. Her fans eagerly waited four years for this new album, and they were not disappointed. Current sales hold around 9 million copies sold in the US. With plenty of billboard number ones and a plethora of awards to go with it, Adele once again was able to capture great emotion in her music and her listeners find her relatable. The songs on her album differ from more upbeat to slow ballads, which are great for belting out on road trips with your friends. Adele said that this album was the toughest one, as she felt more pressure from the public to release number one hits, and she definitely didn’t disappoint. Her hit “Hello” sat at the top of the charts for 10 weeks! Adele definitely isn’t one to

shy away from her emotion as she pours her life’s experiences into her music and her performances. Her song “Sweetest Devotion,” which is on her new album, is about her son and the joy he brings to her life. She expresses this so easily through her music; this emotion can be seen while she performs as she jokes and communicates with her audiences as if they were close friends. The album wonderfully features Adele’s vocal range and this pop album isn’t only for the die-hard fans. Despite being frequently played on my personal playlists, Adele has been making waves in other fan bases. Her humble nature makes her relatable to the audiences, and as seen on the 2017 Grammy’s, she has many other musical friends, such as Beyoncé. These friendships open up connections that allows her to be seen not only in her genre of music, but become recognized in others. The *25* album is the third part of a trio, with albums *19* and *21*, all named for the age Adele was when the album was produced. Adele used this to be an insight of what her life was like at those moments throughout that year of life. As she is known for her belief in trilogies, this means the end of the age-named albums. However, Adele fans are excited to see what is in store for the superstar, and hope that they don’t have to wait another four years!



Above: the Saint Joseph’s College emblem Image courtesy of Google images

Working Overtime: Pumas Fall Three Times, Pick Themselves Back Up

Kylie Hill

Co-Editor-in-Chief

The Lady Pumas do not give up. The Saint Joseph’s College Women’s Basketball team fell into a three-game losing streak, but were able to bring home a win in the last home game of the season, and possible the last game for the The Lady Pumas at Richard F. Scharf Alumni Fieldhouse, 76-70 on February 18, 2017 against Lewis University.

On Thursday, February 9, the Pumas faced off against Rockhurst University and fell to the Hawks 77-71 after going into overtime, kicking off the losing

streak. Despite the loss, the game was nothing short of exciting. The Pumas and Hawks were constantly fighting to come out on top; at the end of the first quarter, the Pumas and Hawks were tied 29-29. Pumas earned the lead in the second, but Rockhurst pulled back ahead, taking a late lead.

The Pumas did not stay far behind. Nearing the end of the fourth, the Hawks only led by five points. At the buzzer, Sophomore Lauren Ruth sunk a three-point shot, securing us extra time to fight for the win. The Pumas came out roaring, scoring the first four points in overtime. However, they were not able to keep the

Hawks at bay, allowing them to score 14 points and come out victorious.

On February 11 and February 16, the Lady Pumas fell down two more times, defeated by William-Jewell College 61-59 and University of Wisconsin-Parkside 69-67. Both were close contests; there was never a clear victor till the last few minutes of the game.

Just like Rockhurst, the game against the William-Jewell Cardinals went into overtime, the lead changing 13 times over the whole course of the game. The Pumas started the first half of game with a strong lead, but began to struggle offensively in the second half. The Cardinals seized the opportunity and brought the score to a 38-38 tie at the conclusion of the third quarter. The score quickly became a series of tie ups, as the two teams faced off in the fourth quarter and into overtime. Unfortunately, in the final seconds of the game, the Cardinals took possession of the ball and sunk a jump shot to win the game.

Although the game against the UW-Parkside Rangers did not result in overtime, it was still a fight till the end, with the Rangers making a comeback in the second half, where they scored 45 of their 69 points. Despite the strong offense in the first half, the Pumas



Above: Kalea Parks attempts a lay-up. Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland.

got themselves into foul trouble and their defense suffered in the second half of the game.

The Pumas may have fallen three times, but they were certainly able to pick themselves back up as they defeated the Lewis Flyers after seven different ties and lead changes. In the second quarter, the Pumas destroyed the Flyer’s lead by scoring an impressive 21 points. Lewis came back in the second half, but the Pumas were able to tie up the game with a lay-up, three pointer, and free throws making the game a Puma victory and securing them a spot in the GLVC tournament.



Below: Sophomore Exercise Science major, Lauren Kotey goes up for a jump shot. Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland.

Close but no Cigar

By Christine Manika
Sports Writer

The Saint Joseph’s College Pumas Men’s Basketball team started their last five games on Thursday night with a game against the Rockhurst University Hawks at home. Despite the energy of the crowd, the Pumas lost their momentum during the game resulting in an 85-77 loss.

In the first six minutes of the game, the Hawks led early 11-2. The Hawk’s possessions went long after the Pumas tried to speed them up. Within the last three minutes before the half, the Hawks were over the Pumas by 12 points.

Junior Guard Eric Gillespie added a couple of free throws to close the gap 35-28 Hawks. Close to the start of the game, the Hawks picked up where they left off and extend their lead over the Pumas. But, the Pumas started to get back in the game when Sophomore Guard CJ Hardaway set up a couple of three-point plays that were followed by free throws. Then, Junior Guard Davone Daniels cut the Hawks’ lead to 79-74 after a lay-up with less than a minute in the game.

The Hawks went on to answer back with a lay-up of their own along with a few extra points to ensure the win. The Pumas moved on and faced the William Jewell College Cardinals on Saturday afternoon.



Above: Luis Becerra drives the ball against Bellermine’s defense. The Pumas lost to the Hawks in a high scoring 117-114 game. Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland.

It was a shooting battle at home for the Pumas and Cardinals. Because of this close match-up, the Pumas and Cardinals went into overtime due to the Cardinals push toward the end of the game. After an impressive effort by both teams, the Pumas swallowed a tough 117-114 loss.

The Pumas struck first with scoring during their first five possessions of the game, including hitting a three-point shot by Daniels and Sophomore Forward Nick Jeffirs followed with back-to-back threes. Hardaway topped it all off with a lay-up; Pumas led 13-4.

With a little over three minutes until the half, the Pumas led the Cardinals by 17. The Cardinals

tried to score up until the last minute when they hit a three in the game. By the half, the Pumas were on top of the Cardinals 54-42.

Starting off the second half, the Cardinals started to hit their corner shots along with driving in the lane to score some big shots to get back in the game. With 10 minutes left in the game, the Pumas lead was cut 77-72. With five minutes left in the game, the Cardinals tied the game at 87.

The Pumas led 102-100 in the final seconds, until Sophomore Guard Davious Webster tried to steal the ball and put the Cardinals on the line. These free-throws tied the game, causing it to go into overtime.

The Cardinals formed a two

possession lead 112-108 with two minutes left in the first overtime. The Pumas and Cardinals went back and forth, and with six seconds in the game, the Cardinals had a lead of 117-114. Hardaway threw a three point shot that fell short, resulting in a Puma loss of 117-114.

On February 16, the Pumas won with a score of 84 - 79 against Wisconsin-Parkside. They also defeated Lewis University 70 - 68 a on February 18.



Above: Davone Daniels, jumps for an unguarded lay-up to score. Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland.

Upcoming Events

February 23

Women’s Basketball vs University of Indianapolis 5:30 pm

Men’s Basketball vs University of Indianapolis 7:30pm

February 24

Softball vs Barton College In Duncan, SC 2:00pm

Softball vs University of Mount Olive In Duncan, SC 4:00pm

February 11

Men’s Track and Field vs Grand Valley State Conference in Indianapolis, IN

Women’s Track and Field vs Grand Valley State Conference in Indianapolis, IN

Softball vs Lenoir-Rhyne University In Duncan, SC 12:00pm

Men’s Basketball vs Wayne State University in Evansville, IN 1:30pm

Softball vs Limestone College in Duncan, SC 4:00pm

February 26

Men’s Track and Field vs Grand Valley State Conference in Indianapolis, IN

Women’s Track and Field vs Grand Valley State Conference in Indianapolis, IN

Men’s Basketball vs Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament in Ford Center, Evansville, Ind.

Softball vs Converse College in Duncan, SC 10:00am

Men’s Tennis at Eastern Illinois University 10:00am

Men’s Basketball vs Notre Dame College (Ohio) in Evansville, IN 1:30PM

Women’s Basketball vs University of Missouri - St. Louis in Evansville, IN 4:30 PM

SJC Pumas Take on Grand Valley University's Big Meet

By Hannah Wallace
Sports Editor

The Saint Joseph's College Track & Field teams went to Grand Valley State University last weekend for their Big Meet; this being their last competition until they race at indoor conference at University of Indianapolis.

“We all went out there and made Saint Joe proud, it was something to remember,” says Assistant Coach Nirva. “We got the message out. We’re still here and we’re still fighting.”

For the distance runners, there were personal records, conference qualifiers, and overall outstanding performances. Leading the events was senior Justin Hays, finishing the 5000m race in a time of 14:45, which is his best indoor time. Brian Eurton in the 3000m posted a new personal record of 8:33.47.

The Lady Pumas on the distance team had a bit of a difficult weekend, however, the ladies certainly showed a few great individual performances and still remained to give it everything they could. The women’s DMR, consisting of Madelin Biddle, Rachel Bartz, Hannah Conner, and Hannah Dawson came through with a time of 11:45.

As far as the sprints and field

events, there were new names making themselves recognized this weekend. Thomas Jones, a freshman, ran the 400m in a time of 51.33 which was a full second PR while Jelani Regan ran a PR with 22.92 in the 200m. Phillip Thompson, yet again, has broken another record in the Long Jump with a mark of 7.05m.

Demar Malcolm ran season bests on Friday in the 200m and 400m with times of 22.43 and 50.19, both of which times qualified him for the conference

meet.

The Pumas will give it everything they have as they return for their last indoor championship meet. SJC travels this weekend to the University of Indianapolis for the 2017 GLVC Indoor Championships with high expectations of success.



Pictured: Meghan Hennessey and Brooke Werstler
Photo Courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland



Pictured: (above) Jelani Regan, (below) Krisstian Williams
Photo Courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland



Puma Athlete Spotlight: Vanessa Olson



Photo courtesy of Saint Joseph's Athletics

By Kylie Hill
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Vanessa Olson is a senior from Schereville, IN. Olson is majoring in Business Administration and plays Tennis for the Pumas.

- 1.) How long have you been playing Tennis?**
I have been playing competitive tennis since sophomore year of high school.
- 2.) What are your goals for this the season?**
My goals for this last season of Tennis are definitely taking

home as many wins as we can. I hope to get some conference wins at number 2 doubles with my partner Clare.

- 3.) What is your favorite memory of Tennis here at SJC?**
My favorite memories of playing Tennis here at SJC are going to Hilton Head every year for Spring Break and playing in paradise
- 4.) What are your hobbies?**
Sending memes to my friends

5.) Do you have any rituals you do to pump you up for a game?
Before each tennis match, I fist bump to a wide variety of songs.

6.) Why did you choose SJC?
I chose SJC because of the small class sizes and I loved the way it felt like a community here.

7.) Who is your role model and why?
My mom is my role model because she is one of the roughest women I have ever met. She encourages me to do my best even during the hard times.

8.) What is your favorite song?
“Favorite Song” by Chance the Rapper

9.) What is your favorite thing about Tennis?
My favorite thing is that I get to play a sport I love with one of my best friends.

10.) What are your plans after graduation?
Find a job in management, hopefully somewhere in Texas, Chicago, or Indy.

Puma Athlete Spotlight: David Schurr



Photo courtesy of Saint Joseph's Athletics

By Hannah Wallace
Sports Editor

David Schurr is a senior from Plainfield, IL. Schurr is majoring in Criminal Justice and pitches for the Puma Baseball team.

- 1.) How long have you been playing baseball?**
I’ve been playing baseball since I was old enough to hold a ball, so probably 5 years old.
- 2.) What are your goals for this season?**
If our goal isn’t to win a national championship then we as might as well not even show up to play.

3.) What is your favorite memory about Baseball?
My favorite memory has to be Hell week this year because it was my last one and it was pretty emotional for me and the rest of the seniors.

- 4.) What are your hobbies?**
I enjoy watching sports, playing video games with the boys, and beating Chase Fieldhouse in chess.
- 5.) Do you have any rituals you do to pump you up for a game?**
Our team likes to trash talk each other and get each other fired up

6.) Why did you choose SJC?
I chose SJC because of the winning culture of the baseball team and because Coach OD is second to none

7.) Who is your role model and why?
My Dad because I don’t know anyone that holds them self to a higher standard than he does. He’s always doing the right thing and he’s made me the person I am today.

8.) What is your favorite song?
“Shut up and Dance With Me” by Walk the Moon

9.) What is your favorite thing about Baseball at SJC?
My favorite part is that we are all a part of something bigger than

baseball. We are a family and my teammates have become my brothers.

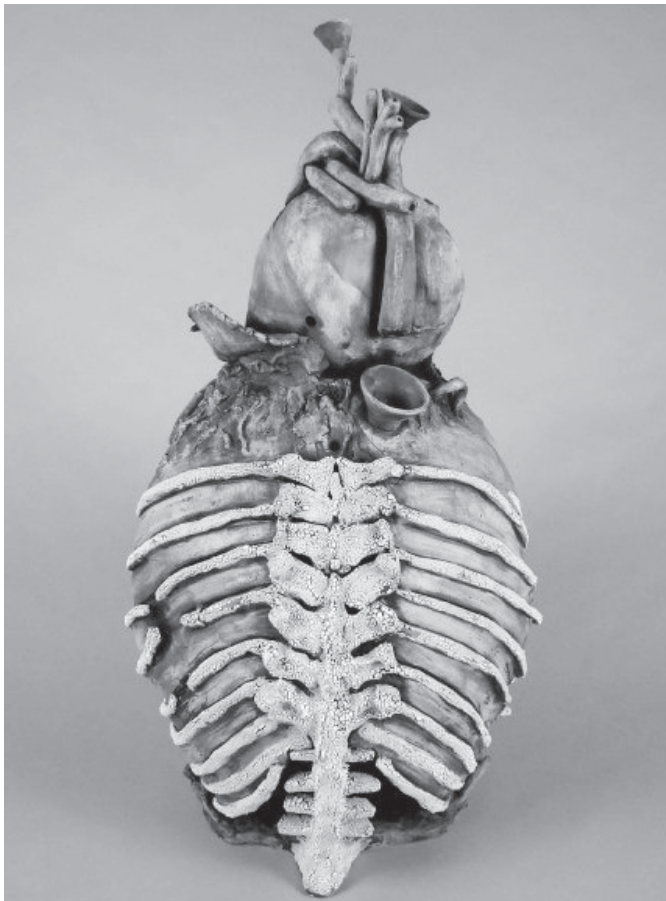
10.) What are your plans after graduation?
After graduation, I plan to be a police officer and marry the girl of my dreams.

the back page

Creative Corner



Ceramic Sculpture by Chuck Morrison



Ceramic Sculpture by Corey Crum

Up is Down

By Karen Gramajo

Up is down when you fall towards the sky.
Falling up to leave troubles behind.
You never want to come back.
It sucks to stay on the ground.
Working in the system is terrible.
Slavery for freedom.
Paying taxes,
Paying bills,
Doing homework,
Working past hours;
It's selling life to be free.
Not enough money.
So you fall towards the sky; dwindling
with the stars.
Wherever up is down and down is up.
It doesn't matter; falling is better than
working.

Confessions of a Coffee Addict

By Alyssa Cook

I have a small confession to make.
I'm a die-hard coffee addict.
Not that you should intervene –
Just thought you should know about it.

I drink it in the mornings
Percolated fresh and hot.
I fill it full of sugar
Or the creamer that I bought.

I drink it while I'm driving
To help me stay alert
It's made to keep you wide awake
So I'm sure it couldn't hurt.

I drink it during class
It helps me raise my hand
And give the thoughtful answers
That my lit. classes demand.

I drink it to feel better
Or less exhausted at the least.
Its soothing nectar warms my soul
And calms my inner beast.

I drink it in my bedroom,
And I drink it during church,
And when I come to a new town,
I look for Starbucks first.

I drink it freshly brewed,
And I sniff it in the store.
I rub the beans between my thumbs
And immediately want more.

It's not that bad I guess.
I've read it helps your heart,
Like a pumpkin-flavored insulin shot
Essential to each day's start.

I guess, what I'm trying to say
Is I can't live without it.
I know I'm never going to break
This mocha latte habit.



Drawing by Karen Gramajo